

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY **Poland** REPORT

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DATE ACQUIRED This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The foreign broadcasting department of Radio Warsaw broadcasts in 13 languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Croatian, Serbian, Finnish, Swedish, Danish, Russian, and Yiddish. The programs consist of news, news commentaries, on-the-scenes reporting, and music.
2. The news broadcasts are prepared in Polish by the Central News Room of Radio Warsaw. They are based principally on PAP (Polish Press Agency) and Tass bulletins, but occasional quotations from UP, AP, and other international press agencies are used when found convenient to support or prove a point in favor of Soviet and Satellite policy. All items which the Central News Room sends to the foreign sections must be translated and broadcast in full.
3. Commentaries concerned with general issues are prepared in Polish by the Central Editorial Board and are then translated and edited by appropriate foreign sections. The senior editors of the foreign sections concerned write the commentaries on internal matters of countries to which they are broadcast. The subjects of these commentaries are decided upon at the editor's daily conference. The instructions of the Party Central Committee are transmitted to the foreign broadcasting department through the editor-in-chief of the department, who presides over the daily editor's conferences and gives a resume of the latest events at home and abroad, indicating the proper interpretation and handling by the various foreign sections.
4. Material for on-the-scenes reporting is mostly supplied in Polish by the Central Editorial Board and has been prepared by journalists working for Radio Warsaw on a piece-work basis. The foreign sections have more choice in translating and editing them according to local needs than the commentaries. The foreign broadcasting department itself does a certain amount of on-the-scenes reporting and, although the editorial boards of the sections have some choice regarding subject matter, the approval of the editor-in-chief must be obtained before a recording vehicle is made available. Since most section editors are foreigners who know nothing about Poland, their on-the-scenes reporting is also centrally organized; representatives from all sections are taken to a certain point, shown around, permitted to make some interviews and take quick notes, and then given a limited amount of recording time. On-the-

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- 2 -

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scene reporting of national events and festivities is done with texts prepared in advance and read by the speakers against the actual background, where they are allowed to insert a few individual, non-political remarks. A number of bilingual journalists [redacted] have been appointed as roving reporters, given a great deal more freedom in choice of material, and have produced comparatively interesting material.

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5. The musical programs are also prepared to produce an indoctrinating effect. The selection of suitable musical programs rests with the technical editor, and he may be charged with incompetence or even sabotage if he makes an inappropriate selection.
6. The foreign broadcasting department maintains a correspondence section to keep informed on the reaction of its listeners all over the world. A large percentage of the incoming mail consists of specific questions which are answered both by mail and by incorporation in the programs. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] On the whole, however, the department is unable to estimate the number of its listeners or the effect of its extensive and costly propaganda work.
7. Guidance on program policy comes only from the Party Central Committee, either directly to the department or through the Central Editorial Board of the station. Since the Central Committee often receives instructions from Moscow on official reaction to important current events, definite lulls in commentaries exist where immediate reaction is called for. These lulls occur when the Central Committee is in doubt and does not want to assume the responsibility of acting according to its own judgment.
8. Significant changes in program policy were initiated after the return of the editor-in-chief from a visit to Moscow at the end of 1954. The most important changes were the renewed emphasis on Polish national affairs and the absolute ban of all attempts to interfere in the internal matters of those countries to which the foreign broadcasts are made. Formerly, the respective foreign sections gave advice and veiled instructions on events in Western countries. Other less important changes included a lighter tone in the programs and official approval for jazz music, hitherto banned.
9. [redacted]
10. While the Central Committee is the policy maker, the Control Department has the final responsibility for all broadcasts of the foreign department. The editorial board of each foreign section has a controller who is responsible only to the editor-in-chief and the Central Committee. The controller must approve every program. He must read every script before it is recorded and then check the recording against the script both for accuracy and for correct intonation.
11. Although it is subordinate to the Central Committee, the Control Department often disregards instructions from the Central Committee and acts according to its own judgment. A recent example of the Control Department's independent action was its disregard of instructions from the Central Committee to make its broadcasts on life in Poland more realistic, to admit difficulties, and to explain problems. The Control Department maintained its policy of censuring any mention of difficulties of life in Poland, because it prefers to play safe by not carrying out instructions which might be rescinded later.
12. The staff of the foreign department numbers approximately 600, with a very high percentage of Party members. The editorial staffs of the sections are made up entirely of foreigners, while the technical and translating staff is mixed. Editors and secretaries of sections are all Party members and predominantly political refugees. Although most of them do not even speak Polish, they have an enthusiastically favorable attitude toward Poland and appear to believe sincerely the propaganda they broadcast.

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